

# Narrative 101

Quite simply, a **narrative** tells a **story**, fictional or non-fictional. While there are different kinds of stories, they usually have these core traits, which we will follow for our purposes.

- ✓ **Plot.** Stories have action. Events take place.
- ✓ **Characters.** Even when writing personal narratives, there are characters, or people who move the plot forward and cause events to take place. You are a character in your own life, for instance.

**Protagonist:** Main character in the story

**Antagonist:** Character who works in opposition to the protagonist

***Note: Not all stories have an antagonist in the traditional sense***

- ✓ **Conflict.** Something needs to be at stake. There needs to be some kind of tension. Conflict helps move the plot forward, and gives characters something to do.

**Inner:** Conflict within one's self

**Outer:** Conflict with others

***Note: It's not an either-or. Nearly all stories have both conflicts.***

- ✓ **Turning Point/Climax.** A realization happens here. A change takes place that leads to the conclusion of the story.
- ✓ **Resolution.** The ending of your story where a reader learns what happens after the turning point/climax.